

WASHINGTON STATE

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS OFFICER

MONTHLY REPORT

DECEMBER 2006

CATEGORY	2006	2005	YTD 06	YTD 05
CSEPP INCIDENTS	1	7	53	78
DOE INCIDENTS	0	0	6	7
FIRE	8	11	352	352
HAZMAT	238	190	2293	2120
OTHER	44	25	490	328
911 OUTAGES	7	5	48	43
SAR	49	45	761	586
TERRORIST	0	0	1	0
WEATHER	8	7	63	77
CGS INCIDENTS	0	0	1	2
ESAR (NOT INCL IN TOTAL)	(2)	(2)	(6)	(58)
TOTAL	355	290	4068	3593

LEGEND

CSEPP	Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program
DOE	Department of Energy, Hanford Site
SAR	Search and Rescue Missions
HAZMAT	Hazardous Materials Incidents
WEATHER	Weather Incidents (throughout state, i.e., Flood, High Winds, and Snow)
CGS	Columbia Generating Station
FIRE	Forest Fire Incidents
OTHER	This category includes a wide variety of incidents, i.e., Tsunami, Earthquake, Critical Incident Stress Debriefings, Bomb Threat, etc...
911	911 Service Outages
ESAR	Evidence Search Mission (not included in total numbers)

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- On December 2, Whatcom County commenced a rescue for an injured hiker at the 4,500 foot level in the snow on Church Mountain. The hiker had been hiking for three days when another helicopter spotted the word "**HELP**" stamped out in the snow with the injured hiker waving nearby. This helicopter was not able to affect the rescue so a Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) mission

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was coordinated through the Washington State Emergency Management Division for a US Navy helicopter with a hoist to air rescue this person from the 3400 foot level of the mountain. The subject was later rescued the same day and transported to Harborview Medical Center to be treated for exposure.

- On December 2, King County requested a helicopter for a hoist air rescue of a 24 year-old woman hiker at the 3500 foot level of Mount Si with severe abdominal distress and unable to walk. A helicopter was coordinated from the US Navy at Navy Whidbey to affect the rescue. The subject was subsequently rescued and transported to Harborview Medical Center.
- On December 5, Snohomish County commenced a search for a dementia patient who walked away from her treatment facility in the Mukilteo area. The Alert and Warning Center coordinated search and rescue dog teams from King County to assist in the search. The subject was located uninjured in the early morning hours of December 6TH.
- On December 7, Mason County reopened the search for a male missing since September 30th on the Squaxin Island Indian Reservation. The Alert and Warning Center coordinated search and rescue resources from surrounding counties, including 40 ground searchers and 7 dog teams for December 9th. After a thorough search the subject was not found and the search was suspended.
- On December 9, the National Weather Service issued a High Wind Watch for Pacific & Wahkiakum Counties from Sunday Evening, December 10th, thru Monday afternoon, December 11th. The High Wind Watch was changed into a High Wind Warning early on December 11th for the Washington Coast with wind gusts as high as 80 knots on the southern coast as one to two feet of snow fell in the north and central Cascades.

The National Weather Service cancelled the High Surf Advisory for the Washington Coast and the Winter Storm Warning for the Cascades as the storm began to subside somewhat in the early morning hours of December 12th however this storm system continued to make it's presence felt with a continuing Flood Warning for the Skokomish River in Mason County in anticipation of the next wave of weather approaching the state.

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Numerous High Wind Watches and Warnings, Gail Warnings, Heavy Snow Warnings and Winter Storm Watches were issued throughout the state as the next storm wave produced some of the worst wind storms in a decade.

On December 16th at 1230 hours, the Washington State EOC activated to Phase III Full Operations as this weather event caused numerous jurisdictions to activate their local emergency operations centers due to extensive and widespread wind damage to homes, businesses, and infrastructure with power outages and road closures to transportation systems. Governor Gregoire issued a disaster proclamation for this December Wind Storm event on December 15th for 18 Western Washington Counties. The proclamation was later amended on December 16th to include all of Washington State.

- On December 18, the National Weather Service issued a Winter Storm Watch for Skamania & Clark Counties in preparation for the next storm system approaching Washington State. A High Wind Warning was added for the entire coast and Gale Warning for the western Washington interior as the storm system intensified on December 20th. This weather system was not as strong as the previous weather system however the effects compounded the damages felt throughout the region with additional power lines cut as more trees toppled. This weather event was terminated at 2200 hours on December 21st as the High Surf Warning for the coast expired.
- On December 21, the National Weather Service issued, yet another, Winter Storm Watch for a number of counties in Eastern Washington for December 23rd. On December 22nd the National Weather Service downgraded the Winter Storm Warning to a Winter Storm Advisory based on the assessment that the snow would not be as heavy as was originally anticipated.
- On December 22, an Army Blackhawk helicopter from Ft Lewis crashed near Enumclaw during an early morning low level night vision training mission killing 3 crewmembers. The state EMD coordinated 4x4 ground vehicles to assist in the recovery and crash investigation effort as well as ground SAR units to sweep the site following cleanup operations. Additional SAR volunteers were also coordinated to assist the military accident investigation team.

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- On December 23, the National Weather Service issued a Heavy Snow Warning for the Hood Canal area until the early morning hours on December 23rd. Between 3 and 5 inches of snow fell along the Hood Canal corridor. Additionally, a High Wind Watch was issued for the eastern portions of King, Snohomish and Pierce Counties for Sunday, December 24th with steady winds near 40 MPH and gusting to 60 MPH. The Warning & Watch expired on December 23rd and 24th respectively.
- On December 24, the National Weather Service in Spokane issued a Winter Storm Watch for Northeast Washington from Sunday evening to Monday morning. Up to 9 inches of snow fell above 4000 feet. The Watch expired the next morning.
- On December 25, the National Weather Service in Seattle issued a Flood Warning for the Skokomish River in Mason County. The warning was cancelled in the late afternoon of that same day.
- On December 25, the National Weather Service in Portland issued a High Surf Warning for the south Washington coast from Monday morning thru Monday evening. A Winter Storm Warning was issued for the eastern slopes of the Cascades, the Kittitas Valley, and the Wenatchee area for December 26th (Tuesday afternoon thru Tuesday evening). The weather system quickly moved eastward into Idaho early Wednesday morning terminating the event.
- On December 28, the National Weather Service issued a High Wind Warning for the lowlands in Snohomish, King and Pierce Counties. The warning expired early the next day with minimal impact noted.
- On December 30, Kittitas County requested a helicopter for a hoist air rescue of an injured snowmobiler at Lake Anne near Roslyn. The Alert and Warning Center coordinated a US Navy helicopter from Navy Whidbey for the rescue. The subject was safely extracted and airlifted to Harborview Medical Center.
- On December 30, Mason County requested assistance to secure a United States Coast Guard helicopter to extract an injured All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) driver who had sustained a severe back injury. A helicopter from Port Angeles was dispatched and successfully hoisted the injured individual, transporting him to Harborview Medical Center.

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- For the month of December 2006 the SEOO's:
 - Issued 217 warnings to jurisdictions for imminent or occurring emergencies
 - Issued 105 warnings to tribal nations for imminent or occurring emergencies
 - Conducted 993 notifications to state agency liaisons for imminent or occurring emergencies
 - Coordinated 30 resources for search, rescue, recovery and response operations
 - Participated in 37 exercises of which 20 were vessel spill drills
 - Made 1508 and answered 1723 telephone calls
 - Conducted 1798 National Warning System Tests, conducted 244 Comprehensive Emergency Management Network (CEMNET) radio tests. (connects all counties and many cities via Zetron Radio Console)
 - Conducted 59 dedicated line tests with the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP)
 - Conducted 4 dedicated line tests with the Department of Energy, Hanford Site (DOE)
 - Conducted 6 dedicated line tests with the Columbia Generating Station (CGS)